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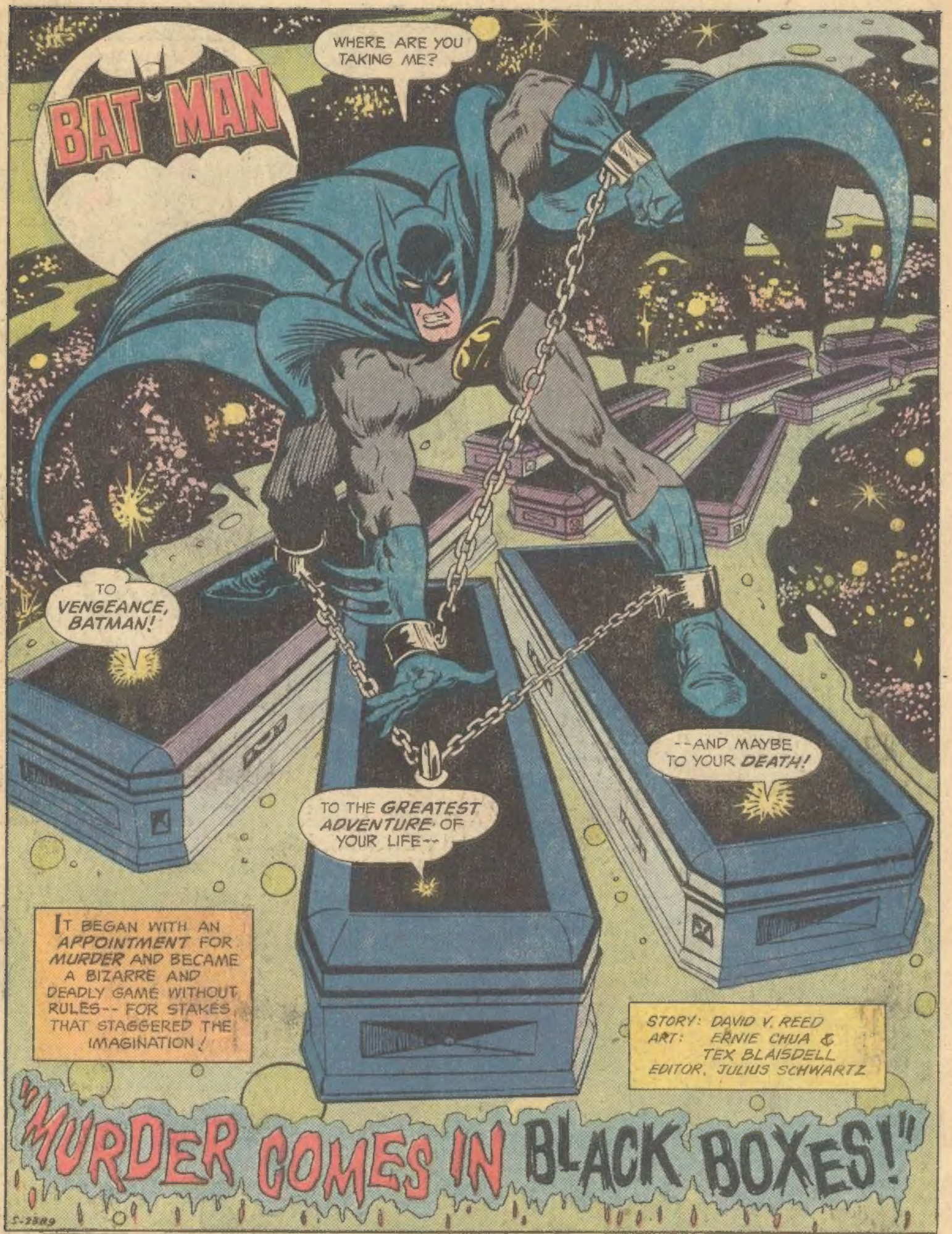
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STORY: DAVID V. REED
ART: ERNIE CHUA & TEX BLAISDELL
EDITOR, JULIUS SCHWARTZ
"MURDER COMES IN BLACK BOXES!"

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A WINDSWEPT RAIN DRENCHES GOTHAM CITY... THE GREAT METROPOLIS IS HUSHED. AT AN UNSHELTERED BUS STOP ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF PARK AND EIGHTH, THE LONE FIGURE OF A MAN STANDS IN THE DRIVING DOWNPOUR...
WITHIN MOMENTS, ANOTHER MAN CROSSES THE STREET... AND STANDS ON THE SAME CORNER...
THEN A THIRD MAN APPEARS... AND JOINS THE OTHER TWO. THEY IGNORE EACH OTHER...
SUDDENLY--A BLACK LIMOUSINE COMES ROARING DOWN EIGHTH-- TAKES THE CORNER AT HIGH SPEED--
SCREEECH
TWO OF THE MEN WERE DEAD ON IMPACT... THE THIRD DIED SOON AFTER. THE VEHICLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR DEATHS WAS FOUND A FEW BLOCKS AWAY... IT HAD BEEN STOLEN. THERE WAS NO TRACE OF ITS DRIVER...

TWO HOURS LATER, THE GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL MORGUE--
YES, COMMISSIONER, YOUR GUESS ABOUT THEIR CREDENTIALS WAS RIGHT... I DO RECOGNIZE THEM! ALL THREE WERE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS!
THAT FIRST ONE WAS ALDO FONDI, FROM ITALY... THIS ONE WAS JORGE ZAMORA, FROM PANAMA...
...AND THIS WAS NKUMA SENGHOR, WHO WORKED FOR THE AFRICAN REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI!
I KNEW THEM ALL THROUGH INTERPOL... BUT I'M CERTAIN NONE OF THEM KNEW EACH OTHER!
WELL, THOSE AREN'T THE NAMES THEY WERE USING! WE TRACED THEM THROUGH THEIR HOTEL KEYS... THEY ALL CHECKED IN YESTERDAY!
IF THEY WERE RUN DOWN BY ACCIDENT--
--WHY THE FROWN, BATMAN?
A RANDOM MEETING OF THREE INTELLIGENCE AGENTS --FROM WIDELY SEPARATED PARTS OF THE WORLD-- TOTAL STRANGERS TO EACH OTHER--
--FINDING THEMSELVES ON THE SAME CORNER IN GOTHAM CITY AT NINE O'CLOCK TONIGHT--
--PRECISELY ON TIME TO DIE?
NO, COMMISSIONER... SUCH AN ACCIDENT IS IMPOSSIBLE!
HOWEVER IT WAS ARRANGED-- HOWEVER IT MAY HAVE COME ABOUT--
--THIS WAS MURDER--BY APPOINTMENT!
AT THAT MOMENT--
WHO'S THIS, SGT. BRENNER?
THE FIANCÉE OF ONE OF THE DECEASED, OR SO SHE CLAIMS!
HOW DID SHE LEARN ABOUT THIS SO FAST?
FROM US! WE FOUND HER IN FONDI'S HOTEL ROOM, WAITING FOR HIM!
FONDI TOLD HER HE HAD TO GO OUT FOR A LITTLE WHILE!

OH MY GOD--IT'S TRUE!
ALDO'S DEAD!
I MUST TALK TO HER!
BATMAN! YOU'RE TO BLAME FOR THIS!
IF HE HADN'T PUT HIS TRUST IN YOU, HE'D STILL BE ALIVE! HIS BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS!
WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH THIS?
ALDO TOLD ME HE'D SENT YOU A MESSAGE--THAT HE'D BE UNDER YOUR PROTECTION AS SOON AS YOU RECEIVED IT!
I NEVER RECEIVED ANY MESSAGE FROM ALDO FONDI!--NONE!
-SOB- I... DON'T... BELIEVE... YOU!
STAY WITH HER, SERGEANT--CALM HER DOWN!
COMMISSIONER, ARE THE PERSONAL EFFECTS OF THESE MEN HERE?
YES, WHY?
THESE, COMMISSIONER--THESE LITTLE BLACK BOXES!
THEY'RE SCRAMBLER-TRANSMITTERS ON A CODED ULTRA-HIGH FREQUENCY--TO A COMMUNICATIONS EXCHANGE FOR INTERPOL!
THAT'S HOW THEY COULD GET THROUGH TO ME!
AS EACH BLACK BOX IS BATMAN-EXAMINED...
THEY'VE ALL BEEN TAMPERED WITH!
THEY'VE BEEN SWITCHED TO ERASE--BUT A SAFEGUARD CIRCUIT STARTED TAPING WHEN THE TRANSMITTER WAS SHUT OFF WITHOUT THE SECRET RELEASE--
--AND THEIR LAST MESSAGES ARE STILL ON THEM!
BATMAN...JUST ARRIVED GOTHAM PLAZA...CONTACT ME CODE JJ72...EXTREME URGENCY. ALDO FONDI.
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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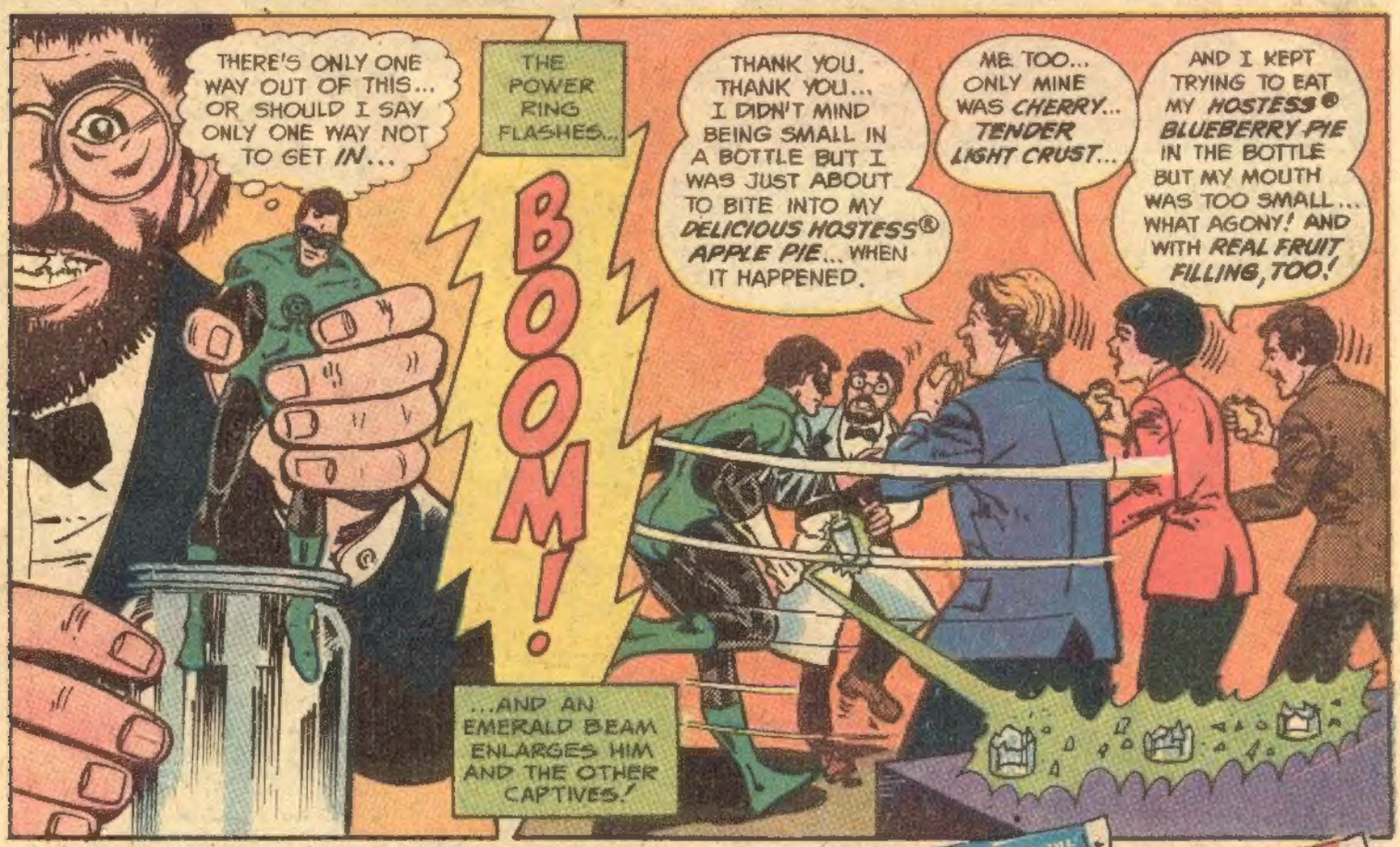
GREEN LANTERN AND THE FRUIT PIE SCENE

MY NAME IS DR. LIVE. SPELL THAT BACKWARDS AND YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TROUBLE YOU'RE IN FOR MY NOSY FRIEND. MY SMALL NOSY FRIEND, THAT IS.
WATCH YOURSELF, GREEN LANTERN! HE'S UP TO NO GOOD!
YOU BRING ME BACK TO SIZE OR YOU'LL BE SORRY, YOU QUACK.


THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS... OR SHOULD I SAY ONLY ONE WAY NOT TO GET IN...
THE POWER RING FLASHES...
BOOM!
...AND AN EMERALD BEAM ENLARGES HIM AND THE OTHER CAPTIVES!
THANK YOU. THANK YOU... I DIDN'T MIND BEING SMALL IN A BOTTLE BUT I WAS JUST ABOUT TO BITE INTO MY DELICIOUS HOSTESS® APPLE PIE... WHEN IT HAPPENED.
ME TOO... ONLY MINE WAS CHERRY... TENDER LIGHT CRUST...
AND I KEPT TRYING TO EAT MY HOSTESS® BLUEBERRY PIE IN THE BOTTLE BUT MY MOUTH WAS TOO SMALL... WHAT AGONY! AND WITH REAL FRUIT FILLING, TOO!

WELL FOLKS, NOW YOU CAN ALL HAVE A BIG TIME AGAIN!
GREEN LANTERN HAS DEFEATED ME. I'LL HAVE TO CHANGE MY NAME TO RESOL. (SPELL IT BACKWARDS AND YOU'LL KNOW WHAT I MEAN.)
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TEEN TITANS: TOMORROW'S HEROES--TODAY! AND *DOCTOR LIGHT* WANTS TO WIPE THEM OUT BEFORE THEY CAN GET THEIR CAREERS STARTED!

WILL MAL, THE NEWEST *TEEN TITAN*, BE ABLE TO STOP THE LUMINOUS LAWBREAKER--OR WILL *DOCTOR LIGHT* SUCCEED IN KILLING THEM... AND THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AS WELL? *ON SALE AUGUST 19TH!*

COMMISSIONER GORDON--KIDNAPPED! THE RANSOM? BATMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY--A SECRET EVEN COMMISSIONER GORDON DOESN'T KNOW! IS GORDON DOOMED... WILL BRUCE WAYNE BE SACRIFICED TO SAVE HIM... OR WILL "THE BEST-KEPT SECRET IN GOTHAM CITY" BE REVEALED? ON SALE AUGUST 31ST!

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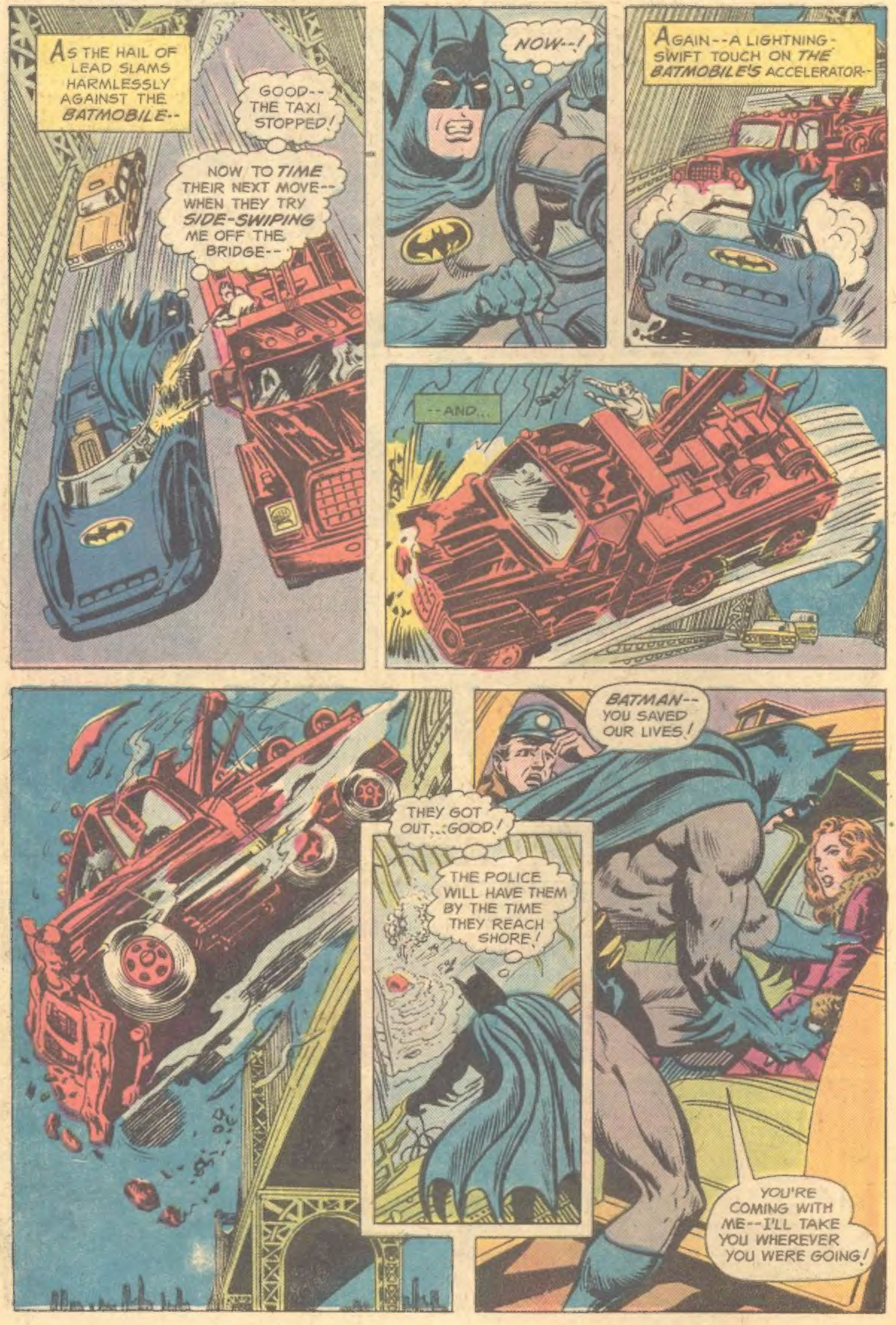
COMMISSIONER, SHE WAS RIGHT! ALL THREE MEN TRIED TO CONTACT ME -- IN ALMOST IDENTICAL MESSAGES--
SGT. BRENNER-- WHERE'S THAT GIRL?
THAT'S WHAT I CAME TO TELL YOU, BATMAN-- I COULDN'T STOP HER --SHE JUST LEFT!
--SO HAVE I!
WITHIN MOMENTS, THE BATMAN IS CAREFULLY POSITIONED AND SCREENED FOR PURSUIT!...
THE DECATUR BRIDGE! HEADING OUT TO THE SUBURBS?
ALL AT ONCE--
A TOW-TRUCK-- GOING LIKE BLAZES--
--WITH A SHOT-GUN STICKING OUT OF THE WINDOW?!
IT'S SLOWING UP-- TO STAY EVEN WITH THE TAXI!
AND A MACHINE-GUNNER--HIDDEN BEHIND THE WINCH!
INSTANTLY--THE BATMOBILE ACCELERATES LIKE A PROJECTILE-- THRUSTS ITSELF BETWEEN THE TWO VEHICLES!
BAM BAM
RATATATAT
TAXI


AS THE HAIL OF LEAD SLAMS HARMLESSLY AGAINST THE BATMOBILE--
GOOD-- THE TAXI STOPPED!
NOW TO TIME THEIR NEXT MOVE-- WHEN THEY TRY SIDE-SWIPING ME OFF THE BRIDGE--
NOW--!
AGAIN--A LIGHTNING-SWIFT TOUCH ON THE BATMOBILE'S ACCELERATOR-
--AND...
THEY GOT OUT...GOOD!
THE POLICE WILL HAVE THEM BY THE TIME THEY REACH SHORE!
BATMAN-- YOU SAVED OUR LIVES!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME--I'LL TAKE YOU WHEREVER YOU WERE GOING!

THE BATMOBILE ROLLS EAST.. MINUTES PASS IN COMPLETE SILENCE THEN -
YOU HAVEN'T SAID WHERE TO YET...
THE BLUE HARBOR MARINA AT WOODSTON!
A MARINA--?
MY AUNT AND UNCLE HAVE A HOUSEBOAT THERE. I ALWAYS STAY WITH THEM WHEN I'M IN GOTHAM.
ANOTHER TEN SILENT MINUTES LATER--
SEEMS QUIET ENOUGH...WHO KNOWS YOU'RE HERE?
ONLY MY AUNT AND UNCLE! THEY'RE IN BOSTON FOR A FEW DAYS, BUT I HAVE MY OWN KEYS
FIRST, LET ME SAY AGAIN--I NEVER GOT ALDO FONDI'S MESSAGE! HIS TRANSMITTER WAS SABOTAGED!
HE WAS A FINE MAN HIS DEATH HAS SADDENED AND SICKENED ME...
...AND NOW, OBVIOUSLY, YOU'RE A TARGET TOO-- IN DEADLY JEOPARDY!
BUT WHY, BATMAN?
PERHAPS YOU KNOW SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU A THREAT!
I KNOW NOTHING!
YOU MAY KNOW MORE THAN YOU THINK! TELL ME-- WHO ARE YOU? HOW DID YOU KNOW ALDO FONDI?
MY NAME IS PAMELA DREW.., I'M AN AIRLINE STEWARDESS FOR WTA, BASED IN LOS ANGELES.
I MET ALDO IN ROME A YEAR AGO...WE'D PLANNED TO GET MARRIED THERE NEXT WEEK...
YESTERDAY HE PHONED ME IN LOS ANGELES... TOLD ME HE WAS HERE AT THE GOTHAM PLAZA ON IMPORTANT BUSINESS.
WE'D HAVE TO POSTPONE OUR WEDDING...BUT I'D SOON HEAR FROM HIM. INSTEAD, I FLEW IN THIS MORNING--
QUIET! I HEAR SOMETHING!

WHAT IS IT?
TWO MEN IN A DINGHY--COMING THIS WAY--FROM A MOTOR YACHT YONDER!
SAFELY THE BATMAN TAKES A LOOK FROM A BOW PORTHOLE...
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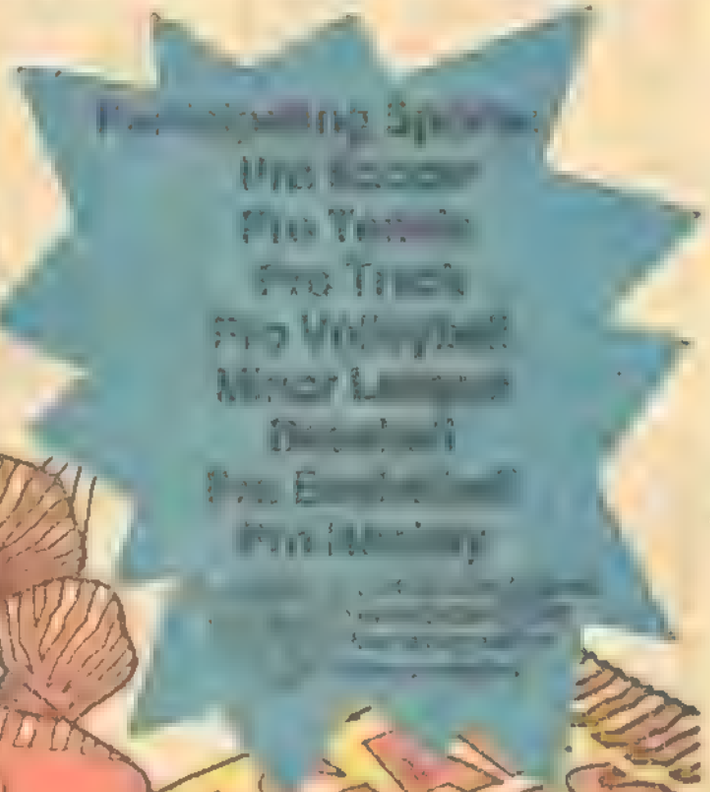

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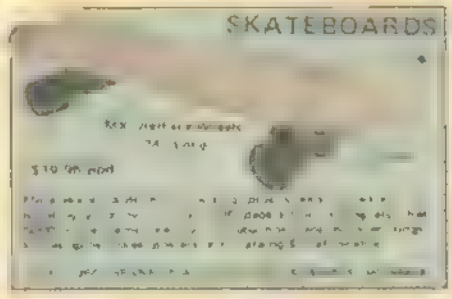

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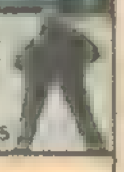

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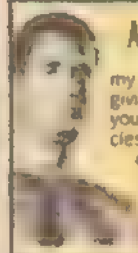

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WHOMP
BATMAN--CAN I COME UP NOW?
NOT YET--THE OTHER TWO ARE COMING! GET BACK UNDER THE PIER!
BUT IT'S COLD!
SO IS DEATH!
I DON'T HEAR A SOUND! SOMETHING'S HAYWIRE!
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!
THE NEXT INSTANT--
THE BATMAN--!?
NOW YOU FOUND OUT!

CHOP
WHOA THERE! I WANT YOU HIGH-AND-DRY!
BAM BAM
GUNFIRE! FROM THE STERN DECK!
CRASH
KILLED THE LIGHT FROM THAT YACHT!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
TAKE THE GUN, BATMAN! SHOOT THEM!
NO WAY!
I'LL CALL THE HARBOR PATROL WHILE YOU GET INTO SOME DRY CLOTHES!

WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF.

Every now and then do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

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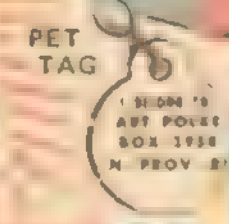

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Name .....

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8:00
EASTERN
7:00 CENTRAL
The Bugs Bunny / Road Runner HOUR
A WHOLE SEASON OF SUPER-CARTOONS WITH BUGS, ROAD RUNNER AND COYOTE, ELMER FUDD DAFFY DUCK YOSEMITE SAM PORKY PIG AND MORE!
8:30
EASTERN
7:30 CENTRAL
9:30
EASTERN
8:30 CENTRAL
Tarzan
LORD OF THE JUNGLE
AIDED BY HIS POWERFUL ANIMAL FRIENDS TARZAN STRIVES TO COMBAT THE DANGERS THAT THREATEN HIS JUNGLE HOME.
NEW
CBS SATURDAY
IN THE NEWS
THIS IS HOW THE NEWS OUGHT TO BE SHORT AND SIMPLE AND IT MAKES SENSE TEN TIMES THROUGH THE MORNING.
10:00
EASTERN
9:00 CENTRAL
LIVE
SHAZAM!
ISIS
HOUR
LIVE
10:30
EASTERN
9:30 CENTRAL
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IN MANY NEW ADVENTURES. GRIPPING ACTION AND EXCITEMENT FOLLOW HIM WHEREVER HE GOES!

10:00
EASTERN
9:00 CENTRAL
LIVE
SHAZAM!
ISIS
HOUR
10:30
EASTERN
9:30 CENTRAL
LIVE
THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST MORTAL IN MANY NEW ADVENTURES. GRIPPING ACTION AND EXCITEMENT FOLLOW H.M WHEREVER HE GOES!
ark II
LIVE
11:00
EASTERN
10:00 CENTRAL
THE YEAR IS NEARLY 2500 A.D. AND LIFE ON EARTH IS ALMOST DESTROYED. THREE YOUNG SCIENTISTS IN A FUTURISTIC MOBILE ARK TRAVEL THE WORLD'S SURFACE TO HELP REBUILD WHAT'S LEFT.
11:30
EASTERN
10:30 CENTRAL
CLUE CLUB
WATCH FOUR TERRIFIC TEEN-AGERS (AND TWO BLOOD-HOUNDS) TRACK DOWN CLUES IN A SERIES OF THRILLING MYSTERIES — THAT YOU CAN HELP SOLVE!
NEW SHOWS
FAT ALBERT
COSBY KIDS
12:00
EASTERN
11:00 CENTRAL
LIVE
EVERYBODY KNOWS 'EM. EVERYBODY LOVES 'EM. AND HERE THEY ARE WITH LOTS OF NEW ADVENTURES.
WAY OUT GAMES
LIVE
12:30
EASTERN
11:30 CENTRAL
1:00
EASTERN
2:00 CENTRAL
CBS CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL
LIVE
FILMS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS, HOSTED BY KUKLA FRAN AND OLLIE. AND IF YOUR PARENTS BEHAVE YOU CAN LET THEM WATCH TOO.
IT ALL STARTS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11! RIGHT HERE ON CBS

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14. ___ THE FLASH
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16. ___ JUSTICE LEAGUE
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24. ___ METAL MEN
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31. ___ HOUSE OF MYSTERY
32. ___ HOUSE OF SECRETS
34. ___ THE UNEXPECTED
35. ___ THE WITCHING HOUR

38. ___ PLOP
48. ___ YOUNG LOVE
52. ___ BATMAN FAMILY
56. ___ SUPER-TEAM FAMILY
59. ___ FREEDOM FIGHTERS
60. ___ G.I. COMBAT
61. ___ OUR ARMY AT WAR
62. ___ OUR FIGHTING FORCES
63. ___ STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES
64. ___ WEIRD WAR TALES
70. ___ WEIRD WESTERN TALES
78. ___ KAMANDI
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99. ___ DC SUPER STARS

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READY FOR MAILING

AS THE POLICE ROUND UP THE THUGS--
NOW FINISH WHAT YOU WERE TELLING ME, PAMELA!
ALDO WAS OUT WHEN I CALLED FROM THE AIRPORT, SO I CAME HERE. THEN I WENT INTO TOWN AND WAITED ALL THIS AFTERNOON IN THE GOTHAM PLAZA LOBBY.
HE CAME IN AT SIX...AND WE HAD DINNER IN HIS ROOM...
AT EIGHT-THIRTY, ALDO WENT OUT... SAID HE'D RETURN IN AN HOUR OR SO...
BUT... HE... DIDN'T..
DID HE REFER AT ALL TO HIS "VERY IMPORTANT BUSINESS" HERE?
NO...ONLY THAT PHRASE! HE SEEMED VERY ANXIOUS AND PREOCCUPIED..
THAT'S IT? --NOTHING ELSE?
YES...THIS ADDRESS BOOK! I FOUND IT IN ALDO'S SUITCASE AFTER HE WENT OUT.
I WAS IN A TERRIBLE STATE ABOUT OUR MARRIAGE BEING POSTPONED. I WONDERED IF THERE WASN'T PERHAPS ANOTHER REASON...
...ANOTHER WOMAN!
...SO I SPIED ON HIM... AND I STILL HAD THE BOOK WHEN THE POLICE APPEARED AT HIS ROOM.
IT WAS CONTEMPTIBLE OF ME TO MISTRUST ALDO..!
I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO TOWN AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR PROTECTION.
YOU BELIEVE ME NOW ABOUT BEING A TARGET?
YES... AND NOW YOU'VE BECOME A TARGET TOO!
ME?--I'VE BEEN ONE FOR THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS... SEEMS LIKE!

ALMOST 1 A.M.... AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..WHERE THE BATMAN HAS JUST FINISHED BRIEFING COMMISSIONER GORDON..
MISS DREW, THIS IS LIEUTENANT MOREHOUSE--SHE'LL BE IN CHARGE OF YOUR PROTECTIVE CUSTODY!
FOR HOW LONG?
NOT LONG... TRUST ME WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER RIGHT?
RIGHT. GOOD BYE... AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.
WELL...NOTHING FROM THE HARBOR PATROL... NOTHING FROM THOSE FOUR HOODLUMS!
WHERE DOES ALL THIS INSANITY LEAVE US?
COMMISSIONER, I'M BOLLIXED UP NINE WAYS FROM TUESDAY!
I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE AWHILE STUDY SOME OF THIS STUFF FROM THE DEAD MEN!
FOR AN HOUR, THE BATMAN SCRUTINIZES EVERYTHING...THEN TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO ALDO FONDI'S ADDRESS BOOK...
FOUND SOMETHING, BATMAN?
WHAT'S THIS--? LOOKS LIKE THE OLD MAGYAR CODE...USED BY THE HUNGARIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT IN YEARS!
POSSIBLY...THIS STUB FONDI HAD, FROM A ROUND-TRIP PLANE TICKET--ROME TO BUDAPEST--ONLY TWO DAYS AGO!
THAT TRIP ISN'T ENTERED ON HIS PASSPORT--WHICH MEANS HE USED A DIFFERENT ONE!
WHY--FOR A SECRET TRIP?
MEANING WHAT--?
I DON'T KNOW...BUT THERE'S A CODED BUDAPEST ADDRESS IN FONDI'S ADDRESS BOOK--AN UNDERGROUND ADDRESS, MOST LIKELY!
IF FONDI WAS THERE TWO DAYS AGO, HE'S BEEN MOVING VERY FAST EVER SINCE--RIGHT BACK TO ROME AND THEN HERE!
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING TO BUDAPEST--?
YOU SAID IT, COMMISSIONER! MEANWHILE, MIND THE STORE!
CONTINUED ON PAGE

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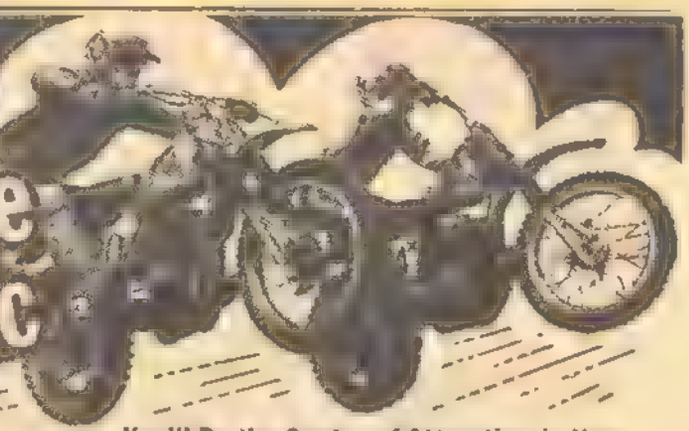

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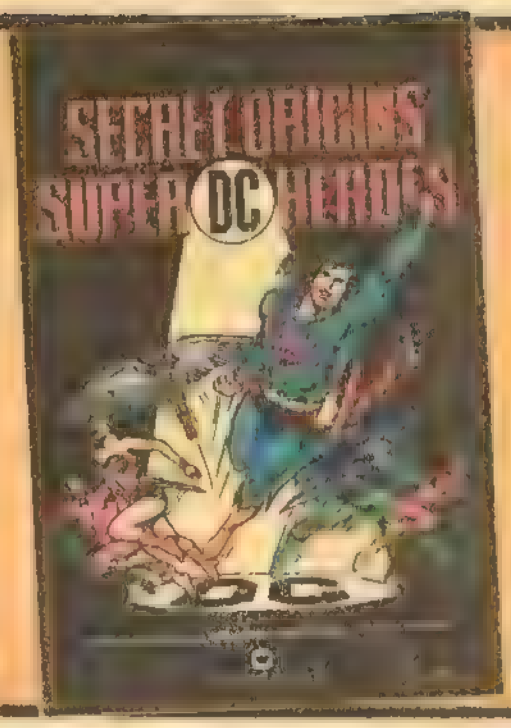
AT FIVE A.M.. A PRIVATE [illegible] TAKES OFF FROM GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT...
THREE-PLUS HOURS LATER, THE PLANE LANDS AT THE AIRPORT IN BUDAPEST--AND A PORTLY GENTLEMAN EMERGES--
YES, MR. [illegible], WE HAVE OFFICIAL NOTICE FOR YOUR CLEARANCE!
YOUR DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT IS IN ORDER... NO NEED TO DETAIN YOU...
MUCH OBLIGED!
--AND COMES OUT FOUR MINUTES LATER-- TOTALLY TRANSFORMED--
--ONLY TO ENTER A NEARBY RESTAURANT--
--FROM WHICH THE MAN WITH THE FLOWERS IS SOON REPLACED BY STILL ANOTHER--
--AND AS DUSK SETTLES OVER [illegible] THE BATMAN!
A RETAIL COFFEE SHOP--AT THE CODED NAME AND ADDRESS IN FONDI'S BOOK! NOT A BAD FRONT..!
LET'S SEE IF THEY HAVE ANYTHING THAT'S WORTH FLYING 4500 MILES!
THE BATMAN'S COMMAND OF HUNGARIAN IS HARDLY FLUENT --BUT IT MORE [illegible]--
CAN I HELP YOU?
THANK YOU...I WANT THE SAME BRAND THAT MR. ALDO FONDI GOT HERE ABOUT THREE DAYS AGO!
FONDI? I DON'T RECALL HIM, BUT PERHAPS MY EMPLOYER WILL KNOW!
THIS WAY, PLEASE...
AFTER YOU, SIR...

CHUK
CHAK
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH OF THAT!
I'LL FORGIVE THE UNUSUAL GREETING! AFTER ALL, YOU COULDN'T BE EXPECTED TO KNOW--
THAT ALDO FONDI AND HIS FRIENDS!
THE BATMAN! --FROM AMERICA!
OF COURSE! OUR CONTROLLED NEWSPAPERS DELIGHT IN REPORTING ON CRIME IN GOTHAM CITY!
AND WE HEAR ABOUT YOU ON RADIO-FREE EUROPE!
I AM JANOS-- AND THESE OTHERS OF OUR UNIT ARE MIHALY, ERNO, FERENC AND ILONA...
BUT WHAT ON EARTH BRINGS THE BATMAN TO BUDAPEST TO SEEK US OUT?
HALF SOLDIER HALF BEAST FROM ALDO FONDI?
NOT FROM ABOUT
DEAD--?!
GOTHAM CITY!

QUICKLY THE BATMAN GIVES AN ACCOUNT OF THE STRANGE AND DEADLY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE LED HIM TO BUDAPEST...
...SO, I'VE COME HERE HOPING TO FIND OUT WHY FONDI WENT TO GOTHAM CITY AND TRIED TO CONTACT ME!
IF YOU CAN HELP ME, MAYBE I CAN CRACK THIS MURDEROUS PUZZLE... AND TRACK DOWN THE KILLER...
WELL TELL YOU WHAT YOU KNOW
FONDI WAS HERE IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO OF DR. LUCAS NAGY--
THE GOTHAM
NOBEL PRIZE WINNER VANISHES! DR. LUCAS NAGY, NOTED HUNGARIAN PHYSICIST, REPORTED
GOTHAM CITY COURIER
UNOFFICIAL SOURCES SAYS NAGY WAS ON VERGE OF FLEEING TO WEST!... BELIEV SECRETLY TRIED
I REMEMBER THAT! IT MADE HEADLINES ALL OVER THE WORLD!
BUT HOW DID FONDI KNOW?
NAGY--THE GREAT NUCLEAR SCIENTIST! WHAT IS THIS I'VE RUN INTO?
THE RUMORS ABOUT DR. NAGY DEFECTING WERE TRUE! WE WERE HELPING HIM
FONDI WAS WAITING FOR HIM IN AUSTRIA--TO TAKE HIM ON TO ITALY! BUT NAGY HAD APPARENTLY STRAYED JUST SHORT OF THE BORDER WHERE THE BODIES OF HIS GUIDES WERE FOUND!
IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT THE DOCTOR WAS EITHER IN PRISON OR DEAD--BUT A FEW DAYS AGO WE RECEIVED INDISPUTABLE WORD THAT HE WAS NEVER CAPTURED BY THE GOVERNMENT--
--AND HAS NEVER BEEN IN THEIR HANDS!
BUT THEN WHERE HAS DR. NAGY BEEN ALL THIS TIME?
EXACTLY! NO ONE KNOWS! HE HAS UTTERLY VANISHED!
WE IMMEDIATELY SENT THE INFORMATION TO FONDI! HE CAME HERE THE VERY NEXT
HE WANTED TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT OUR INFORMATION WAS ACCURATE--AND HE SEEMED PROFOUNDLY SHAKEN BY IT!

DO YOU KNOW WHY?... CAN YOU GUESS?
NEITHER... IT OBVIOUSLY HAD TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE AND MEANING FOR HIM ... BUT HE SAID NOTHING AND WE ASKED NOTHING!
HE WAS COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH OUR PROOF, AND HE RETURNED TO ROME AT ONCE... AND THAT'S ALL WE OR ANYONE KNOWS!
HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF NAGY WHEN HE WAS HERE...
DO YOU MIND IF I KEEP...
LOOK!--THE RAID SIGNAL!
THE SPECIAL POLICE!
THE NEXT INSTANT-- A BATTERING RAM CRASHES AGAINST THE DOOR--
WHU
QUICK--THIS TRAPDOOR--
WHERE DOES IT GO?
INTO THE WINE CELLARS!
GO AHEAD!-- I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!
CRACK!
THE BATMAN?! IT CANNOT BE!
ALL RIGHT-- HAVE IT YOUR WAY!
CONCLUDED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING



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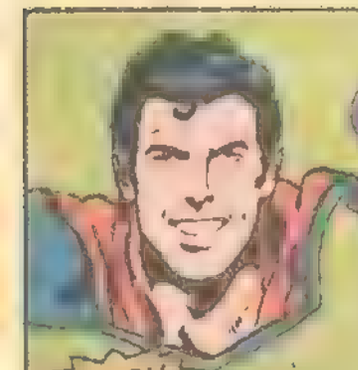

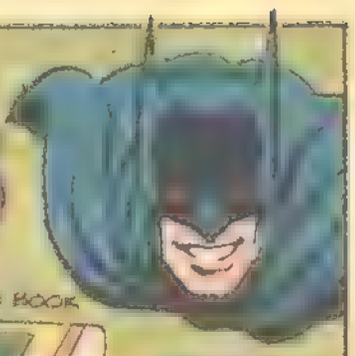

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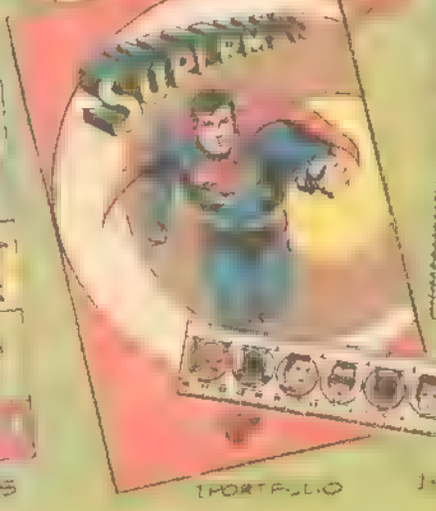

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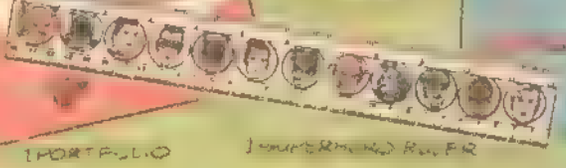

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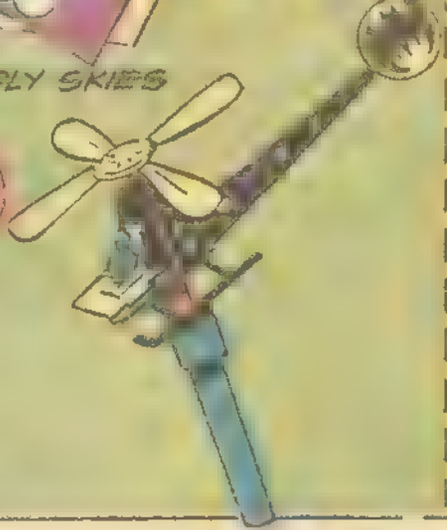

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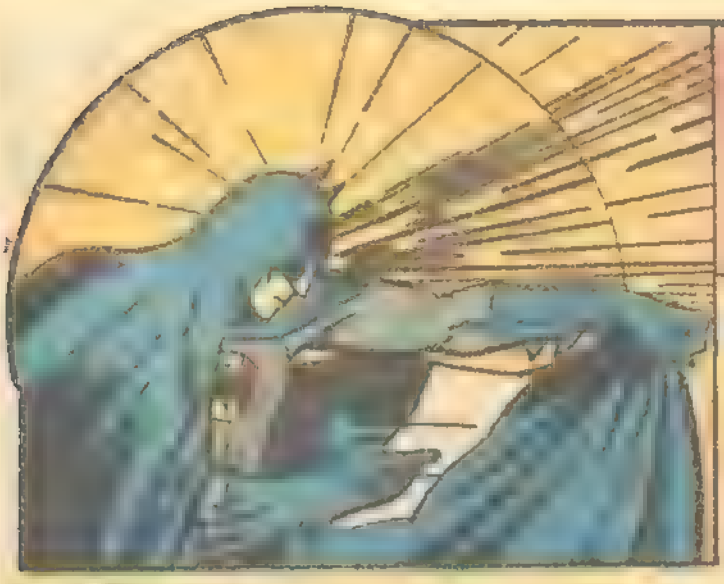
SO--WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? TO THE NEXT ISSUE AND "FOUR DOORWAYS to DANGER!"
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER



LETTERS to the BATMAN

S-2423

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Julius,

Only David V. Reed could manage to fit dope smugglers, one-legged sea captains, sea monsters and Bruce Wayne's vacation into one 17 page story. "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" in **BATMAN #277** isn't the sort of fare that will win a lot of ACBA awards, but it will keep the readers happy. I was glad to see Dave return to what has become his comics trademark: mystery with a series of unusual twists.

Ernie Chua deserves a round of applause for his usual devastating pencilwork, but I found Tex Blaisell's inks a bit sketchy. But it didn't affect the overall quality of the issue!

KEVIN L. CALLAHAN, Bronx, Col.

(Sea Monster and all, #277 drew mixed reviews, as evidenced by the letters above and below!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

Sorry, gentlemen, but I have trouble believing the month-after-month mountain of praise that readers lavish on David V. Reed's **Batman** tales. How can they applaud Reed who, issue after issue, flaunts his contempt for every **Batman** story written in the past six years?

Mr. Reed virtually wrote his own condemnation on the first page of **BATMAN #277.** Maybe Reed's Caped Crusader operates on crime with the skill of a surgeon. Denny O'Neil's **Batman**, however, battles it with the fury of a demon. **The Batman** I remember struck terror into the hearts of underworld minions. Now he merely matches wits with them. Despite Ernie Chua's fearsome-looking Batman, the Gotham Guardian never acts in a fearsome manner. Gone is the strange figure of the night who stalks his prey with uncanny determination, who intimidates his victims with a few menacing words, who appears and inevitably vanishes in a shroud of mystery. I want those things back and it just doesn't seem reasonable that—out of several thousand readers—only Adam Castro (whose letter appeared in #276) agrees with me!

PAUL D. EMRATH, Milwaukee, Wis.

(Sorry to disappoint you, Paul, but even Adam Castro doesn't agree with you this time, as evidenced below!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear People,

Give me a story entitled "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" (not a top title, Mr. Reed) and I'll wince. Give me a story entitled "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" (not a top title, Mr. Reed) and tell me David V. Reed wrote it and I'll groan. Then let me read the story and I'll ask for one large slice of humble pie!

What I'm trying to say is that "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" (not a top title, Mr. Reed) was good. It contained all the elements that spell a good **Batman** story. First of all, it had a knockout, wordless, action-filled cover by Ernie Chua. It was, to say the least, a fantastic work of art and I hope you plan more silent covers in the future.

Did I say "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" (not a top title, Mr. Reed) was good? I'm sorry—it was excellent! From the supernatural beginning to the logical explanation at the end and including every panel in the middle, "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" (not a top title, Mr. Reed) was fast-paced, well characterized and realistically dialogued. I especially enjoyed that pipe trap on page 11. It seemed perfect and inescapable, although I hold that it would have been more interesting if the pipe had filled with water due to an oncoming high tide.

As a matter of fact, out of all the various ingredients that comprised "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" (not a top title, Mr. Reed), there was only one that I strongly disliked. I challenge the DC lords of the lettercols to deduce what it is.

ADAM CASTRO, New Rochelle, N.Y.

(Not a hard problem, Mr. Castro! But you'll be interested to learn that Dave's original title was "Make Way for a Monster!" Ye editor Julie Schwartz supplied the one which was used!—BR)

. . . . .

Dear Editor:

A few days ago I was looking over my small collection of 1940's pulp magazines and in various issues of **AMAZING STORIES** I found short stories entitled "Kid Poison", "The World of Miracles" and "The Girl From Venus". What caught my attention was that they were all written by one David V. Reed. Is this the same Mr. Reed who 35 years later is scripting **Batman?**

THOMAS D.N. ZAENGER, Toledo, O.

David V. Reed is Avram Davidson!

MASHURI CLARK, New York, N.Y.

After reading and comparing "Riddle of the Man Who Walked Backwards" in **BATMAN #277** and "Slow Down—and Die" in **DETECTIVE #460,** I think I have the answer to the ever-present "Who is David V. Reed?" mystery.

How did I deduce this? Well, no one has brought out the forcefulness of **The Batman** like David V. Reed and that **'TEC** story has the very same style. Therefore, David V. Reed is **YOU,** Bob Rozakis!

MIKE STOECKIG, Forsyth, Mont.

(While Dave is indeed the author of those old AMAZING STORIES, he is not mystery/sf writer-editor Avram Davidson. As we revealed last issue, legally he's David Vern, a separate entity entirely from ye assistant editor—Bob Rozakis!)

FREE DAILY PLANET FREE

VOLUME 76 ISSUE 15 | WEEK OF AUGUST 9, 1976 | BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR

TEEN TITANS TACKLE DR. LIGHT!

VILLAIN USES JUNIOR HEROES TO GET AT JLA

(Titans HQ)—*Dr. Light*, the master villain who has tried time and again to defeat the *Justice League*, has come up with a new scheme to get at the world's greatest super-heroes.

The Lord of Luminescence sends out a signal to *Robin, Wonder Girl, Kid Flash, Speedy* and *Mal* to lure them into their *Teen Titans* headquarters and then traps them. With the junior heroes as hostages, *Dr. Light* hopes to gain entrance to the *Justice League* satellite and thereby trap the *JLAers* in their own home base.

Can *Dr. Light* really become "The Man Who Toppled the Titans" or will he be foiled? Paul Levitz, Pablo Marcos and Bob Smith have the answers in *TEEN TITANS #44*, on sale the week of August 16th. Plus in this issue, see what happens when *Mal* decides to become a full-fledged super-hero!

TRIVIA QUIZ #15

Batman's been teaming up with lots of the DC Super-Stars in *BRAVE & BOLD*. Can you name the one crimefighter who's worked with him most often in that magazine? And do you know which prominent DC hero has never joined the Caped Crusader in *B&B*? The answers will be in next week's PLANET!

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: Jimmy Olsen knows *Batman* and *Robin's* identities. Commissioner Gordon knows his daughter Babs is *Batgirl*. Iris Allen knows The Flash is her husband Barry. *Green Lantern's* Hal Jordan identity is known to Carol Ferris.. And the father-son team of Pete and Jonathan Ross know Superman is Clark Kent, but neither Jon nor *Supie* knows that Pete has that knowledge.

LOSERS STALK CHINESE WARLORD

(China, World War II)—*The Losers, Captain Storm, Johnny Cloud*, and *Gunner* and *Sarge*, are off on a mission to China. Their target—the invincible Chinese warlord, General Yin, who is causing more trouble for the Chinese army than the invading Japanese! It's another Bob Kanigher /George Evans battle blockbuster coming your way in *OUR FIGHTING FORCES #170* on sale the week of August 16th. Don't miss "A Bullet for the General!"

And also in the issue, *Sarge* goes on a solo mission, courtesy of Andy Furey and E.R. Curz, and proves that "Marines are Born—Not Made!"

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF AUGUST 16th

ALL STAR COMICS #63—"The Death of Doctor Fate" is the title and that's only the beginning. Add the *Injustice Gang, Zanadu* the Chaos-Maker and a mysterious guest hero and you've got the *Super-Squad* story of the decade, courtesy of Paul Levitz, Keith Giffin and Wally Wood!

CLAW #10—Our hero wraps up his battles with everybody in "Epilogue" by David Michelinie, Keith Giffin and Bob Layton.

SUPERMAN FAMILY #180—The Girl of Steel suffers amnesia blackouts, making it awfully hard for her to discover "The Secret of the Spellbound Supergirl" in this tale by Cary Bates and Kurt Schaffenberger. Plus: "The Nine Lives of Jimmy Olsen" and "The Girl That Almost Married Clark Kent!"

UNEXPECTED #176—A trio of tales: "Having a Wonderful Crime" by George Kashdan and E.R. Cruz; "What Haunted Herbert?" by Al Case and Jess Jodloman; and "Escape to Treachery" by Jack Philips and Gerry Talaoc.

WEIRD WAR TALES #49—Four stories of the weirdest wars ever, "The Face of the Enemy" by Jack Oleck and Leo Duranona; "Mark of the Conqueror" by Oleck, Ernie Chua and Bill Draut; "The Day After Doomsday" by Steve Skeates, Steve Ditko and Vince Colletta; and "A Rite to Die" by George Kashdan and Ricardo Villamonte.

WEIRD WESTERN TALES #37—*Jonah Hex* stars in "Requium for a Gunfighter" by Michael Fleisher, Rich Buckler and Frank Springer.

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW:

BATMAN #281/BLACKHAWK #249/ BLITZKRIEG #6/HOUSE OF MYSTERY #247/SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS #4 (guest-starring *Green Lantern)/SHAZAM #26/SUPERMAN #305* (The original *Toyman* returns)/*TARZAN FAMILY #66 (Korak, John Carter* of Mars, and *Pellucidar)*

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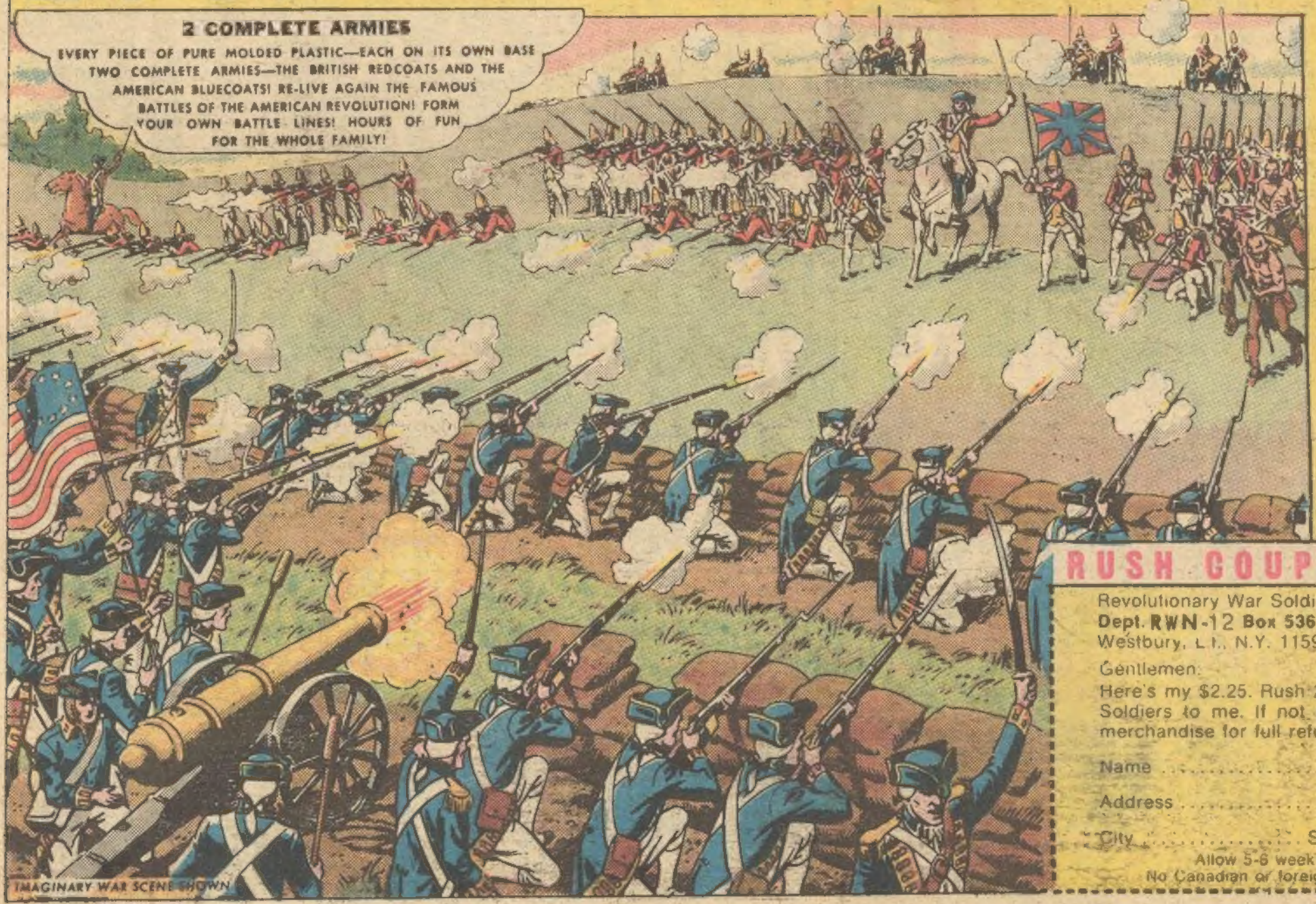

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